THE 176 WG/JA LEGAL OFFICE
IS IMMEDIATELY AVAILABLE TO PROVIDE
LOAC ADVICE AND COMPLIANCE

LOCATED IN BUILDING 37 DSN 317-626-1100 COMMERCIAL (907) 249-1100

LOAC VIOLATIONS MAY BE COMMITTED BY FRIENDLY OR ENEMY FORCES

YOU MAY BE CRIMINALLY LIABLE FOR LOAC VIOLATIONS OR FAILING TO REPORT SUSPECTED LOAC VIOLATIONS

REPORT ALL LOAC INCIDENTS & POTENTIAL LOAC VIOLATIONS IMMEDIATELY

MAY 2001

LAW OF ARMED CONFLICT (LOAC)

INFORMATION CARD FOR SECURITY FORCES PERSONNEL



176 WG/JA

REPORT LOAC INCIDENTS IMMEDIATELY THROUGH YOUR CHAIN OF COMMAND

HANDLING PRISONERS OF WAR (POWs)

- Use of physical force or threats to obtain military information is prohibited
- POWs cannot be punished for refusal to give info for acts of other POWs
- Can't summarily execute POWs--Any order to do so is unlawful and must be refused
- Female POWs are entitled to appropriate care and facilities
- All POWs are entitled to practice their religion
- POWs cannot be used to shield attacks and must be moved away from combat operations when practicable
- Do not delay return of POWs to a safe place
- If unsure whether an individual should have POW status, treat the individual as a POW and determined status later
- Captured medics and chaplains are not POWs; but may be detained to administer to the needs of the POWs
- Sick and wounded POWs are entitled to the same quality and priority of medical care as the captor's own troops
- Escaping (or escaped) POWs, after re-capture, may only face disciplinary, not criminal, action

PRISONERS OF WAR (POWs)

- Use of handcuffs and blindfolds can only be used when absolutely necessary to restrict POW vision or movement and must be removed upon reaching the holding area
- Soldiers may strip search POWs or civilian role players down to T-shirts and trousers. Commanding officers must supervise all searches
- Anyone can conduct tactical questions if a commanding officer is present
- As a POW, you are required to give name, rank, service number and date of birth--You are permitted to go beyond the basic required information in order not to appear stubbornly defiant, as long as you do not prejudice your country or its allies
- Soldiers will treat POWs IAW the Geneva Convention. No one will abuse a POW either physically or verbally
- Interrogations will be conducted by qualified interrogators

CIVILIANS AND PRIVATE PROPERTY

- Civilians may not be taken hostage under any circumstances
- Report any possible violation of LOAC, however slight, from whatever source, to immediate commander, or if he/she is unavailable, to OSI or JAG
- Soldiers may not block a vehicle's path with their bodies in order to capture it
- Can seize enemy military or war property, except for personal gain. War trophies are NOT authorized
 Can't destroy enemy medical property
- Don't violate civilians' rights in combat zones
- Protect civilians from acts of violence and threats

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